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**SHAH CEMENT**

RICE STOCK GOES DOWN BELOW 2 LAKH TONNES

**Costlier import gets nod**

**REAZ AHMAD and REJAUH KARIM BYRON**

The government yesterday sanctioned 2.5 lakh tonnes of rice import from Vietnam at prices much higher than that of another one lakh tonnes it approved for import two weeks ago.

The cabinet purchase committee gave nod to the new import under a deal to government-to-government (G2G) deal with Vietnam considering that rice price is on the rise in the interna-

tional market.

And with an all-time low rice stock in hand, Bangladesh requires the supply in quick time to subdue a 42 percent unusual hike in domestic coarse rice price.

The food ministry yesterday convinced the cabinet body that though it would be pricey, Vietnam has promised to ship the first consignment in 15 days and complete shipping all 2 lakh tonnes of white rice (Arap) and 50,000

tonnes of parboiled (Shiddo) within 60 days.

For each tonne of parboiled rice, the government would have to bear \$470 and for white rice \$430. The prices are \$23 to \$42 (for per tonne) higher than the rate that the government had sanctioned two weeks ago to international suppliers for importing two consignments of white and parboiled rice each weighing 50,000 tonnes.

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**Won't allow one-sided election**

**Says Khaleda**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Saying that no one-sided election would be allowed to be held in the country, BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday urged people to vote for her party in the next polls.

"I want to say good days lie ahead and cast your votes to ensure victory for the BNP. We will move the country towards peace, democracy and development," she said while

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**Plastic reefs could protect marine life**

**MAIL ONLINE**

Putting plastic into the sea may seem a strange way to address climate change, but for one research team it could offer the chance to preserve marine life.

Experts have created a series of artificial reefs in

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**Top Republican shot in Virginia**

**Four killed in San Francisco shooting**

**AGENCIES**

A rifle-wielding opponent of President Donald Trump opened fire on US lawmakers practising for a charity baseball game in the Washington suburb of Alexandria, Virginia yesterday, wounding a top Republican congressman and four others before he was fatally injured in a shootout with police.

The 66-year-old gunman was identified as James T Hodgkinson of Belleville.

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Flames and smoke coming from a 24-storey block of flats after a fire broke out in West London. The fire brigade said 40 fire engines and 200 firefighters had been called to the blaze in Grenfell Tower, which has 120 flats.

**Night of horror in London**

**12 killed, 68 injured as fire engulfs 24-storey housing block; many trapped inside; cause of blaze under probe**

**REUTERS, London**

A blaze engulfed a 24-storey housing block in central London early yesterday, trapping residents as they slept and killing at least 12 people in an inferno that the fire brigade said was unprecedented in its scale and speed.

More than 200 firefighters, backed up by 40 fire engines, fought for hours to try to control the blaze, London's deadliest in a generation. The Grenfell Tower apartment block was home to about 600 people.

London Mayor Sadiq Khan said the fire raised ques-

tions about the safety of such high-rise blocks, and the BBC reported that the scale of the disaster could delay Prime Minister Theresa May's announcement of a parliamentary deal to stay in power.

Some residents screamed for help from behind upper-floor windows, others tried to throw children to safety, as flames raced through the block of about 120 apartments in the North Kensington district just before 1:00am (local time).

Firefighters said they had rescued 65 people - some in pyjamas - from the 43-year-old block, a low-rent housing

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**PRAYER TIMING JUNE 15**

Faz Zahr Aar Maghrib 15

|         |      |       |       |
|---------|------|-------|-------|
| RAMADAN | JUNE | SEHRI | IFTAR |
| 19      | 15   | 6-51  |       |
| 20      | 16   | 3-38  | 6-51  |

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

**জনকল্যাণে রাজ্য** | **উদ্ভৱের অঙ্গিলেনে রাজ্য**

১৯৯১ সালে প্রণীত ভ্যাট আইন অনুযায়ী ভ্যাট ব্যতীত মূল্য নির্ধারণ পদ্ধতি

২০১২ সালে প্রণীত নতুন ভ্যাট আইন অনুযায়ী ভ্যাটসহ মূল্য নির্ধারণ পদ্ধতি

**অনলাইন ভ্যাটের আওতায় পণ্য বা সেবার মূল্য পুনঃনির্ধারণে সচেষ্ট হোন**

পণ্য বা সেবার মূল্য নির্ধারণের ক্ষেত্রে যারা এখনও ভ্যাট ব্যতীত বা VAT Exclusive পদ্ধতি ব্যবহার করেন, তাদের সবাইকে ১ জুলাই থেকে নতুন আইনের অধীনে সবশেষ মূল্যকে ভ্যাটসহ মূল্য বা VAT inclusive হিসেবে নিজস্ব করতে হবে

বাংক, বীমা, মোবাইল অপারেটরসহ সকল ব্যবসায়ীকেই উৎপাদন, বিপণন (পাইকারি ও খুচরা), সেবা প্রদান, সরবরাহসহ ব্যবসায়ের সকল পর্যায়ে এই পদ্ধতিতে মূল্য পুনঃনির্ধারণ করতে হবে

বিজ্ঞপিত কার্যক্রমের নাম কমন

পঞ্চাঙ্গাত্মকী বাংলাদেশ সরকার  
অর্থ মন্ত্রণালয়  
কল্যাণীয়া সিস্টেম প্রিন্সিপাল  
কাজি মাসুম হোসেন

**১৬৫৫৫**  
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**VATOnline**

**ভ্যাট দিচ্ছেন জনগণ, দেশের হচ্ছে উন্নয়ন**

**BUDGET TO POSITIVELY IMPACT SOLAR SECTOR**

**SMMAB**

We thank the Honourable Finance Minister and NBR for announcing the duty fee of 10% on imported panels, and setting the direction for enhancing local production of Solar PV Module and achieve localisation of know-how and technology to achieve and exceed the RE target of 10% by 2020.

At present, nine Solar PV Module production facility with Tk. 200 crore investment has an annual capacity of 100 MW, and can meet present requirements.

Solar energy sector has already been declared as a thrust sector by the Government under EIPM. The aim is to achieve the National RE goals and SDG7 goal. There should be a minimum duty gap between raw materials and its finished product, otherwise, the sector will not flourish. At present, the raw material duty is set at 0% as well as for the finished panel, accordingly, in Budget it has been recommended for finished Solar Panels to be set at 10%. In addition, it's worthy to mention that the solar panels which are coming in through import are mostly below quality/sub standards as there are no set testing requirement, this also must be mandatory for all.

In the near term 2020, Solar RE goal of 2000 - 3000 MW will have been significantly achieved up to 75%, by Solar PV IPP Grid connected MW plants built on solar park policy. The rest is expected to come from Decentralised RE solutions; like solar irrigation pump, mini-grid, roof-top and stand-alone solutions.

Since majority of the Solar RE target will be achieved through Solar IPP MW plants, customers can enjoy the zero duty on all capital equipment, including solar Panel, and tax holiday during project tenure as per IPP policy.

Decentralising of RE solutions will mainly happen in rural areas. Customers have to face many complications due to the lack of warranty on imported products and equipment. It is expected that, customers will no longer be dependent on cheap imports from China or any other countries, instead local production will benefit from such program and customers will also be free from the hassle of faulty products. Meanwhile, this project will establish a sustainable technique and develop this sector even further.

The Solar sector has seen a whole new level of success with Solar Home System (SHS) program; with the largest global roll out of 4.5 million in rural homes, and green jobs exceeding 100,000.

We at SMMAB are committed to take this level of growth to achieve the RE goal of 10% by 2020, and beyond with required policy and budget support.

**SOLAR MODULE MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION OF BANGLADESH**